

Application No. 09/857,448
Amdt. Dated January 20, 2004
Reply to Office Action of July 15, 2003
Docket No. 0508-1073

REMARKS

It is believed that this application has been amended in a manner that places it in condition for allowance at the time of the next Official Action.

The present amendment is supplemental and further to the amendment of October 15, 2003. The present amendment is believed to address the issues raised in the Advisory Action mailed on November 6, 2003.

Claims 20-35 are pending in the present application. Support for claims 20-35 may be found generally throughout the specification and in original claims 1-19.

In the Advisory Action, it was alleged that the claimed invention was indefinite to one of ordinary skill in the art. The Advisory Action alleged that the proposed amendment to claim 6 eliminates the definition of the term "u", which was not defined elsewhere except as a numerical value. The Examiner's attention is respectfully directed to new claim 25. New claim 25 recites the subject matter of claim 6. New claim 25 recites the definition that u is $> 1/2$ at the second to the last line of the claim. As a result, it is believed that claim 25 is definite to one of ordinary skill in the art.

In claim 8, the Advisory Action alleged that the terms "corresponding to" rendered the claim indefinite. Claim 8 has

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been amended so that this term is no longer recited in the claim.


The outstanding Official Action also alleged that claim 14 was indefinite because it was unclear as to what the antisense oligonucleotide was intended to bind to in the second paragraph of the claim. However, claim 14 has been cancelled. As a result, it is believed that this potential rejection has been rendered moot.

Thus, in view of the above, it is believed that the claimed invention is definite to one of ordinary skill in the art.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies, to charge payment or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 25-0120 for any additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. § 1.16 or under 37 C.F.R. § 1.17.

Respectfully submitted,

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